Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A fuel cell comprising:

a joint body produced by interposing an electrolyte member between a pair of electrodes;

a separator which, on a first surface thereof, holds the joint body , and on a second surface thereof opposite to the first surface, holds an adjacent joint body produced by interposing an electrolyte member between a pair of electrodes ;

a rib portion which is formed on ~~a surface~~ respectively on the first and the second surfaces of the separator, divides the ~~surface~~ first and second surfaces of the separator into a plurality of regions, and forms passages through which fluid flows on the separator, and which communicate with each other in series; and

a gas supply inlet which connects to ~~the~~ a fluid passage and supplies a gas to the fluid passage, wherein the gas supply inlet is located so that the gas enters into a first of the plurality of regions in a direction parallel to a longitudinal axis of the first region.

21. (Previously presented) The fuel cell of claim 20, wherein the passage defines a serpentine path for the fluid.

22. (Previously presented) The fuel cell of claim 21, wherein the rib portion comprises a key-like rib array formed in plural on the separator.

23. (Previously presented) The fuel cell of claim 20, wherein the passage subdivides along a flow direction of the fluid which flows through a separator into a plurality of sub-passages, the sub-passages converging into a single passage at an outlet of the passage, wherein a maximum number of sub-passages are provided at a predetermined distance from the gas supply inlet based on a variation curve of a total fluid amount of the fluid which flows on the separator.

24. (Previously presented) The fuel cell of claim 20, wherein the fuel cell is configured such that an electrode reaction is activated on an entire cathode surface along the passage.

25. (Previously presented) The fuel cell of claim 20, wherein the passage is configured such that a sectional area defined thereby changes as a function of a variation curve of a total fluid amount of the fluid which flows on the separator.

26. (Previously presented) The fuel cell of claim 24, wherein the separator is configured such that a sectional area defined by the passage is proportional to a variation curve of a total fluid amount of the fluid which flows on the separator.

27. (Previously presented) The fuel cell of claim 24, wherein the rib portion is configured such that a sectional area defined by the passage is proportional to a variation curve of a total fluid amount of the fluid which flows on the separator.

28. (Previously presented) The fuel cell of claim 24, wherein the rib portion is configured such that a width of the passage for fluid is widest in a linear portion of the passage including at a predetermined distance from the gas supply inlet based on a variation curve of a total fluid amount of the fluid which flows on the separator.

29. (Previously presented) The fuel cell of claim 26, wherein the bottom of the separator is configured such that a depth of the passage increases gradually along a direction of flow of the fluid which flows on the separator, reaches its deepest part at a predetermined distance from the gas supply inlet based on the variation curve of the total fluid amount, and decreases from the deepest part to an outlet of the passage.

30. (Previously presented) The fuel cell of claim 27, wherein the rib portion is configured such that a width of the passage increases gradually along a direction of flow of the fluid which flows on the separator, reaches its widest part at a predetermined distance from the gas supply inlet based on the variation curve of the total fluid amount, and decreases from the widest part to an outlet of the passage.

31. (Previously presented) The fuel cell of claim 28, wherein a first linear portion of the passage has a first width, a second linear portion of the passage including a the predetermined

distance from the gas supply inlet based on the variation curve of the total fluid amount has a second width larger than the first width, and a third linear portion of the passage has a third width smaller than the second width.

32. (Previously presented) The fuel cell of claim 20, wherein surfaces defining the passage downstream of a location at a predetermined distance from the gas supply inlet based on the variation curve of the total fluid amount are treated hydrophilically.

33. (Previously presented) The fuel cell of claim 32, wherein a hydrophilic material is applied to the surfaces.

34. (Previously presented) The fuel cell of claim 33, wherein the hydrophilic material includes polyacrylamide.

35. (Currently amended) A fuel cell comprising:

a joint body produced by interposing an electrolyte member between a pair of electrodes;

a separator which, on a first surface thereof, holds the joint body , and on a second surface thereof opposite to the first surface, holds an adjacent joint body produced by interposing an electrolyte member between a pair of electrodes ;

a rib portion which is formed on ~~a surface~~ respectively on the first and the second surfaces of the separator, divides the ~~surface~~ first and second surfaces of the separator into a plurality of regions, and forms passages through which fluid flows on the separator, and which communicate with each other in series; and

a gas discharge outlet which connects to ~~the~~ a fluid passage and from which a gas is discharged, wherein the gas discharge outlet is located so that the gas discharges from the last of the plurality of regions in a direction parallel to a longitudinal axis of the last region.

36. (Previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 20, wherein a width of each of the regions is different.

37. (Previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 36, wherein the width of the regions near the gas supply inlet of the fluid passage is wider than the width of the regions near a gas discharge outlet of the fluid passage.

38. (Previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 36, wherein the width of each of the regions is narrower than the width of its immediately upstream region.

39. (Previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 38, wherein a width of a turning passage between an end of the rib portion and an opposing peripheral wall of the separator is less than or equal to the width of the immediately upstream region.

40. (Previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 35, wherein a width of each of the regions is different.

41. (Previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 40, wherein the width of the regions near the gas supply inlet of the fluid passage is wider than the width of the regions near a gas discharge outlet of the fluid passage.

42. (Previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 40, wherein the width of each of the regions is narrower than the width of its immediately upstream region.

43. (Previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 42, wherein a width of a turning passage between an end of the rib portion and an opposing peripheral wall of the separator is less than or equal to the width of the immediately upstream region.

44. (New) A fuel cell comprising:

a joint body produced by interposing an electrolyte member between a pair of electrodes; and

a separator which holds the joint body;

wherein the separator includes

a plurality of regions narrower in a downstream direction,

rib portions defining the regions, and

turning passages formed between ends of the rib portions and a corresponding peripheral wall, the turning passages being narrower in a downstream direction.